REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

By way of the amendment instructions above, the subject matter of claim 4 has been introduced into the amended version of claim 1. As such, claims 2-4 have been cancelled as redundant. Thus, the amended version of claim 1 now clarifies that the so-called bending monomer *is* isophthalic acid.

Therefore, following entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 5-25 will remain pending herein for consideration, of which claims 1 and 6 are in independent format.

The only issues remaining to be resolved in this application are the Examiner's art-based rejections. Specifically, prior claims 1-5 and 12-25 attracted a rejection under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being "obvious", and hence unpatentable over Linstid III et al (USP 6,222,000) in view of Furuta et al (USP 5,612,101). In addition, claims 6-10 attracted a rejection under the same statutory provision based on the combination of Charbonneau et al (USP 4,351,918) in view of Furuta et al. As will become evident from the following discussion, all pending claims herein are patentably distinguishable over the applied references of record.

In this regard, it should be noted that the present invention relates to a composition containing a wholly aromatic polyester amide which contains no terephthalic acid but instead contains an aromatic aminophenol as the components. That is, the present invention is a wholly aromatic polyester amide having a completely different structure from the polymer containing at least one of a terephthalic acid component, a 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid component and a 4,4'-biphenyldicarboxylic acid component as essential components. Significantly, terephthalic acid, 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid and 4,4'-biphenyldicarboxylic acid

are disclosed in Linstid III et al as components and are supported by the Examples therein.

Specifically, in the Examples of Linstid III et al , no polymer containing aminophenol which further contains isophthalic acid is disclosed. That is, the wholly aromatic polyester amide as proposed by Linstid III et al is completely different structurally from that of the present invention containing an aromatic aminophenol ***and*** isophthalic acid as the essential components.

Accordingly, applicants submit that Linstid III et al would not direct the ordinarily skilled person toward the present invention in the first instance. Furthermore, even if an ordinarily skilled person would combine Linstid III et al and Furuta, the present invention would not result. In this regard, Furuta merely discloses blending a liquid crystal polyester (LCP) with an olefin. Thus, as noted above, Linstid III et al would not direct and ordinarily skilled person to the wholly aromatic polyester amide which contains an aromatic aminophenol and isophthalic acid. Thus, even if an ordinarily skilled person would consider combining the LCP of Furuta with the wholly aromatic polyester of Linstid III et al, the presently claimed invention would not be the result.

As such, withdrawal of the rejection advanced under 35 USC §103(a) based on the combination of Linstid III et al and Furuta is in order.

The combination of Charbonneau and Furuta under 35 USC §103(a) is also inappropriate against claims 6-10. In this regard, the present invention as defined by independent claim 6 is directed toward a wholly aromatic polyester amide containing:

(A) 4-hydroxybenzoic acid;

(B) 2-hydroxy-6-naphtoic acid;

(C) aromatic diamine; and

(D) aromatic dicarboxylic acid.

In addition, the present invention as defined by claim 6 is achieved by adding a bending monomer, such as isophthalic acid, to the aromatic carboxylic acid.

According to Charbonneau, however, no "bending monomer" appears to be disclosed therein. In addition, the disclosed 2,6 -dihydroxyanthraquinone included in the polymer of Example 6 of Charbonneau is ***not*** a bending monomer. Thus, no guidance to the ordinarily skilled person is provided by Charbonneau with regard to bending monomers at all.

The deficiency of Charbonneau is not cured by Furuta et al. In this regard, as noted previously, Furuta merely discloses blending a liquid crystal polyester (LCP) with an olefin. Moreover, the polymer of Furuta et al is a polymer containing dicarboxylic acid and a specific diamine – i.e., the polymer is a polyamide resin. To the contrary, the polymer of the present invention is a polyester amide containing, e.g., a 4-hydroxybenzoic acid component and 2-hydroxy-6-napthoic acid component as the essential components. Therefore, the constituents of both polymers are completely different and would not be suggestive of one another.

Therefore, even if an ordinarily skilled person were to combine Furuta et al with Charbonneau, the present invention would not result. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §103(a) based on such a combination of references is therefore in order.

Every effort has been made to advance prosecution of this application to allowance. Therefore, in view of the amendments and remarks above, applicant suggests that all claims are in condition for allowance and Official Notice of the same is solicited.

Should any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney so that the same may be resolved without the need for an additional written action and reply.

An early and favorable reply on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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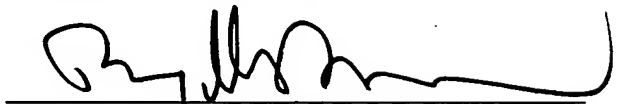
By: 

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